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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,192	07/09/2004	Hiroshi Nagahama	61352-083	3469

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McDermott Will & Emery
600 13th Street NW
Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

DUDEK, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/501,192

Applicant(s)

NAGAHAMA, HIROSHI

Examiner

James A. Dudek

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by US006515721B2 (721).

Per claim 1, 721 teaches a lighting unit comprising: a light source [16]; a light guiding component for guiding light emitted from the light source and emanating the light from a light emanating surface to an object to be illuminated [9]; a reflecting component covering at least a bottom surface of the light guiding component [10]; a light correction component disposed on the light emanating surface of the light guiding component [6-8]; and a casing for holding the light source, the light guiding component covered with the reflecting component, and the light correction component [14], wherein the casing has an opening portion in a region corresponding to a light emanating region of the light correction component [see figures for opening]; and the object to be illuminated is disposed in direct contact with an upper surface of the light correction component within the opening portion [the figures show the lower polarizer of the LC cell is in contact with the element 6].

Per claim 2, 721 teaches a liquid crystal display device comprising: a lighting unit according to claim 1; and a liquid crystal panel as an object to be illuminated disposed on a light emanating surface side of the lighting unit, the liquid crystal panel having a liquid crystal cell comprising a pair of transparent substrates with a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween [SUB1,SUB2], wherein the liquid crystal panel is disposed in direct contact with a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion of the casing of the lighting unit [see figures].

Per claim 3, 721 teaches the liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein the liquid crystal panel comprises a pair of polarizers with the liquid crystal cell interposed therebetween [POL1,POL2]; and a polarizer on the lighting unit side of the pair of polarizers has an outer diameter smaller than an outer diameter of the opening portion of the casing [the POL2 is within the opening of frame 14], and directly contacts a front surface of the light correction component within the opening portion [see figures].

Per claim 4, 721 teaches the liquid crystal display device according to claim 3, wherein the casing has a frame-shaped edge portion protruding toward the opening portion so as to enclose the opening portion; and the liquid crystal cell is disposed on an upper surface of the edge portion [when looking at the figures, the frame extends from the left side towards the optical components and the LC cell sit on the top surface of the frame 14].

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 5-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

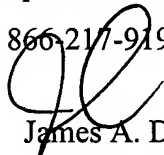
Per claim 10, 721 teaches the liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein the light guiding component is a light guiding plate [see column 6]; the light source is disposed along a first end face of the light guiding plate [see figure 1 and column 6]; the reflecting component is a reflecting sheet [reflection sheet 10]; a bottom surface of the light guiding plate, the first end face of the light guiding plate and the light source, and a second end face of the light guiding plate on which the light source is not disposed are covered with the reflecting sheet [see figures]; the light correction component comprises one or a plurality of light correction sheets [see three sheets 6-8]. The prior art of record fails to teach the casing is frame-shaped and supports at least the bottom surface of the light guiding plate, the second end face of the light guiding plate, and the first end face of the light guiding plate and the light source, each of which is covered with the reflecting sheet.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Dudek whose telephone number is 571-272-2290. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James A. Dudek
Primary Examiner
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